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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : GENERAL DECKER

Lt Col Parson ^P
DATE: 10 August 1961 ^W

FROM : ACTING SGS (H)

CS 370 (9 Aug 61)

SUBJECT: Memorandum to the President on Increased Military Posture

1. On 8 August 1961, the CJCS requested, as a matter of urgency, background information to be used to inform the President of the status of actions taken to implement his instructions of 19 July. The Army response, hurriedly prepared, is at Tab A.

2. The Army portion of Secretary McNamara's memorandum to the President, obtained informally, is at Tab B.

NOTED

14 AUG 1961

SEE ME

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H.R.m / LTD 2/25/61

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9 August 1961

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The following actions have been taken to implement your 19 July decision that we be prepared to deploy as many as six additional divisions and supporting air units to Europe at any time after 1 January 1962.

ARMY

1. Item 5*-- Convert STRAF to Combat Ready Status.

I have authorized 49,998 additional personnel to bring the three STRAF divisions to combat ready status, to augment the STRAF support units and to replace the trainees previously assigned to STRAF. Steps have been taken to provide the necessary additional personnel.

Initially the Army had estimated that augmentation of the STRAF support units would require 35,000 men. Further planning has led the Army to reduce this figure to 18,825. Therefore, the total number required to convert STRAF to combat ready status is 49,998, instead of 66,000 as listed in my memorandum of 18 July.

2. Item 6 -- Strengthen Army Forces in Europe.

For augmentation of existing U.S. Army forces in Europe, I have authorized:

(a) The selection and shipment of 3,000 men to further mechanize the three U.S. infantry divisions now assigned to NATO.

* Item numbers are keyed to the annex to my memorandum to you dated 18 July 1961.

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(2)

(b) The selection and further training of 18,000 men for deployment to Europe, if needed, by 15 December. These men would be used to fill spaces previously deleted from the Tables of Organization.

(c) The selection of certain Ready Reserve units having a total strength of 24,869 to:

(1) Provide 5,656 port personnel who will be required in Europe if the six STRAF and STRAC divisions are deployed to NATO.

(2) Provide 19,213 men for non-divisional combat support units. The Army will select and alert these units, bring them to full strength, accelerate their training and be prepared to deploy them to Europe on 15 December.

The total of (a), (b) and (c) is 45,869, which is 18,131 less than the 64,000 included for these items in my 18 July memorandum. The difference is represented by foreign nationals in the employment of our U.S. NATO forces which it is now agreed need not be replaced by military personnel.

In sum, with respect to the 133,500 increase in Army personnel strength, referred to in my memorandum of 18 July, I have approved plans for 95,867, 19,213 of which will be Reserve units in an alert status. This leaves a balance of 37,633 for which no plans have been approved at this time.

3. Item 3 -- Draft Calls.

The draft call for the month of August has been increased from 8,000 to 13,000. I have approved a draft call of 25,000 for the month of September.

4. Item 12 -- Army Procurement.

I have approved the Army's plans for new procurement totaling \$552 million. The Army has already commenced procurement actions on high priority items. In addition to the approximately \$60 million originally programmed for classified ammunition in the third supplemental. An additional amount, totaling at least \$45 million, will be obtained for classified ammunition by reprogramming other items originally included in the \$552 million.